

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MLEVITSKY:VB

APPROVED BY EUR:AAHARTMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 248247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EWWT, UR, US

SUBJECT: HARTMAN-KORNIYENKO MEETING: MARITIME AGREEMENT

1. DURING MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN OCT. 1, SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KORNIYENKO RAISED PROBLEMS INVOLVING US-SOVIET MARITIME AGREEMENT, SAYING THAT THE SOVIETS WERE DOING NOTHING TO UNDERMINE THE PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT STATING THAT ONE-THIRD OF SOVIET GRAIN PURCHASES IN U.S. WOULD BE CARRIED BY AMERICAN SHIPS. KORNIYENKO

SAID THE SOVIETS PREFERRED TAKING GRAIN FROM GREAT LAKE PORTS BECAUSE GRAIN WAS CHEAPER THERE. THE FACT THAT THE U.S. ONLY USED TANKERS WHICH COULD NOT TAKE ON GRAIN FROM GREAT LAKE PORTS WAS NOT FAULT OF SOVIETS. CERTAINLY THE U.S. COULD NOT ASK SOVIETS TO USE OTHER PORTS AND PAY MORE FOR THE GRAIN.

2. HARTMAN POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD AN AGREEMENT SPECIFYING THAT ONE-THIRD OF THE GRAIN WOULD BE CARRIED ON AMERICAN

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SHIP, WHICH CREATED AN OBLIGATION ON THE SOVIET SIDE. THE

SOVIETS WERE WELL AWARE OF THIS AND SHOULD HAVE TAKEN ACCOUNT OF THE REQUIREMENT IN PLANNING THEIR PURCHASES, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF PORTS. KORNIYENKO RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS NO PROVISION THAT THE U.S. WOULD ONLY USE TANKERS. AMERICAN SHIPS COULD LOAD GRAIN FROM GREAT LAKES PORTS. ALSO. THE SOVIETS WERE NOT STOPPING THEM FROM DOING SO.

3. HARTMAN SAID THAT OUR EXPERTS ARE TALKING NOW ABOUT THIS PROBLEM AND WE HOPE SOMETHING CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT. WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT AND WE BELIEVE IT IS A GOOD ONE. IT IS IN BOTH OUR INTERESTS TO KEEP IT GOING. THE AGREEMENT CLEARLY STATES THAT ONE-THIRD OF THE GRAIN MUST GO VIA AMERICAN SHIPS. HARTMAN SAID THE PROBLEM NOW WAS THAT THERE HAD ALREADY BEEN A GOOD DEAL OF SLIPPAGE. AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER WERE THE WORST MONTHS AND AT PRESENT ONLY 24 PERCENT OF THE GRAIN HAD BEEN SHIPPED ON AMERICAN SHIPS. (KORNIYENKO SAID HIS FIGURES INDICATED 25 1/2 PERCENT.)

4. KORNIYENKO SAID THE EXPERTS SHOULD DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS AND THAT "WE ARE NOT PREVENTING" AMERICAN SHIPS FROM TAKING THIS SHARE OF THE GRAIN. HARTMAN REITERATED THAT SOVIETS SHOULD HAVE MADE PLANS FOR BUYING GRAIN AT PORTS WHERE U.S. SHIPS COULD BE USED. SOVIETS SHOULD NOT FRUSTRATE MARITIME AGREEMENT BY PICKING PORTS WHERE U.S. SHIPS CANNOT BE USED. HARTMAN NOTED THAT THERE IS ALREADY GREAT DISSATISFACTION IN U.S. MARITIME UNIONS ABOUT THE SLIPPAGE WHICH HAS OCCURRED AND SOME TALK OF STOPPING THE GRAIN TRADE. HARTMAN URGED KORNIYENKO TO ENSURE THAT SOVIET EXPERTS APPROACH THIS PROBLEM SERIOUSLY TO AVOID JEOPARDIZING THE AGREEMENT.

5. KORNIYENKO SAID THAT AFTER THE EXPERTS HAVE FURTHER DISCUSSED THESE QUESTIONS WE COULD IF NECESSARY AGAIN DISCUSS THEM AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL. ROBINSON

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